

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
WINDBREAK/SHELTERBELT RENOVATION
(Ft.)

CODE 650

DEFINITION

Replacing, releasing and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt or removing selected tree and shrub branches.

PURPOSE

Restoring or enhancing the original planned function of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In any windbreak or shelterbelt that is no longer functioning properly for the intended purpose.

Extending the length of an existing windbreak is handled under Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380). For normal and periodic pruning, refer to Tree/Shrub Pruning (660).

CRITERIA

Thin trees or shrubs to reduce plant competition or alter the density of the planting.

Prune or shear the trees or shrubs to remove diseased branches or alter the density of the planting.

Remove entire or partial rows of trees or shrubs to release adjacent rows.

Trees or shrubs with coppicing capability shall be cut close to the ground to improve density and/or vigor of trees or shrubs in decline.

Competing herbaceous vegetation will be mechanically or chemically controlled to improve the growth and vigor of trees and shrubs.

Add rows of trees or shrubs adjacent to or

within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt to improve windbreak or shelterbelt density.

Existing growing space, shade level and root competition will be evaluated and determined to be at acceptable levels to permit unimpeded growth to new plantings.

Residual plants will be protected during the renovation.

CONSIDERATIONS

Renovation may be accomplished over a period of years.

Debris should be removed from the site and disposed of properly if the debris will cause insect, disease, fire or operability problems.

Slash and debris shall be removed, treated or eliminated as approved. Refer to Slash Treatment (384).

Vegetation removed during renovation can be burned as specified by Prescribed Burning (338).

Debris and other vegetation removed during renovation may be used to produce energy. Consider the energy balance of this action.

Erosion control may be needed during the renovation process.

Wildlife needs should be considered when selecting tree or shrub species to add or remove. Species diversity, including use of native species, should be considered.

Refer to Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) for further guidance on planting trees and shrubs.

Comply with Idaho Statute "Title 38: Forestry Forest Practices and Stumpage Districts, Chapter 13, "Forest Practices Act"

requirement. Consult with the local Idaho Department of Lands office for permits and guidance.

Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

ID-CPA-027 Windbreak-Shelterbelt Planting Plan Specification will be prepared for applying this practice for each site. Refer to Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note No. 43 Tree Planting, Care and Management for additional guidance.

Record the planned practice using appropriate, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The following actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance):

Additional thinning, pruning or coppice management may be needed in the future to maintain function.